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CHILDREN'S WARDS IN ST. THOMAS'S HOSPITAL, LONDON

BY FLORENCE M. POWELL

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It has occurred to me that a brief account of the very attractive children's wards that I saw last summer in St. Thomas's Hospital, London, may be of interest to the readers of *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING*. Hearing that St. Thomas's was one of the most up to date of London's hospitals, I went there one afternoon and asked to be shown through.

I found it well situated, in the first place, on the banks of the Thames, opposite the Houses of Parliament, modern and well-equipped, a most attractive place. What most interested me, however, were two children's wards, which had been finished and opened in the past year as memorials to the children of some wealthy people.

I am poor at measurements, so can give little idea of the size of these wards in feet and inches, but I noticed that there were about twenty beds.

The walls were tiled throughout, and—happy thought—the old, familiar stories of Mother Goose had been re-told on the tiles in bright-colored pictures and rhymes. The general color scheme was green, which was carried out by having a deep frieze and the wall space between the pictures a lovely, restful shade of green, almost giving the effect of bright pictures hung on a green wall. The little beds were painted the same color; this, with potted plants and palms, made a very charming picture, really calculated to make a little child long to be sick, especially a little tenement-house child.

There were about five pictures on each side and two on each end wall, thus making them large enough to be seen and the rhymes to be read across the room by each child in his little bed. The pictures were so well drawn and colored that I felt as if the old-fashioned pictures of Mother Goose that we older ones knew and remember so well had been copied.

I don't doubt the work of the nurses has many times been lightened by having this means of amusing and distracting the attention of little patients undergoing some painful treatment. The fact of the pictures being in bright-colored tiles instead of being painted on the walls insured that perfect cleanliness we all strive after. It may be that some of our new hospitals in this country have used this plan, although I have

never seen any account of it, but it seemed to me so practical, and to be such a source of pleasure to the little sick ones, that I hoped the idea might be suggested to someone who contemplated furnishing and endowing a children's ward.

STATE REGISTRATION *

By MRS. L. ALICE CHAMBERS

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THE attempt to furnish a paper on "State Registration" cannot be one which essays to bring to you many new ideas, for it is a subject which has already been written upon by physicians and some of the brightest members of the nursing profession, who have viewed the subject from every side and every possible stand-point, the summaries of which writings are conclusive argument for that which we of the State of Michigan and other States are striving to-day.

Scanning the pages of THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF NURSING alone one is surprised at the rapid growth of the movement, and we who have not kept pace with it question, What was its origin? What are its motives and benefits? How has it and shall it be obtained? and What of its future?

The origin of *State organization* was the outcome of the necessity felt by the nurses themselves for a higher standard of education and for improvement in their chosen profession, a natural consequence following the organization of the "Society of Superintendents of Nurses," which was established for *educational purposes*.

The first person to suggest State registration was Mrs. Strong, of the Glasgow Infirmary, and the subject has been agitated in England for many years. Miss Sophia Palmer was the first person in this country to put a working plan on paper, the outline of which was read before the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs at their meeting held in Rochester, N. Y., in November, 1899. This outline has been the basis for the work done since.

About the same time Miss Sylveen Nye, the first president of the New York State Graduate Nurses' Association, organized in April, 1901, advanced ideas along the same line, although her plan was somewhat different. The publicity given the subject at this time set the ball a-rolling.

* Read at the meeting of the Michigan State Nurses' Association in Grand Rapids, March 1, 1905.